Fieldwork at St.Alban's

At St.Alban's we particularly value the exploration of our local area. Our geography curriculum aims to instil in our students a love for where they live. This helps children to develop their sense of belonging and responsibility for the locality. To do this, we take a more practical approach and local fieldwork is an imperative part of our curriculum. We recognise the importance of providing children with first hand experiences and opportunities to apply their geographical skills practically. In October, we particularly celebrate geography fieldwork with our whole school "Fieldwork month." Each class is given an enquiry question that they need to investigate. Children go out into the locality to gather data before analysing this and presenting their findings to the rest of the school. This enquiry-led fieldwork is empowering for pupils because it is purposeful and offers a real audience to their investigations. The way in which children gather, analyse and present their findings is progressive and skills are built upon each year.



Not only do our children regularly explore the local area but also, we have planned opportunities for pupils to apply field work skills on excursions beyond the locality. We aim to develop the cultural capital of our students by providing them with ample hands-on experiences both near and afar. In Y4, children travel to Castleton, where they explore the incredible caverns there. This trip is mainly field work based and so, students will use many geographical skills such as map reading, using compasses and devising their own maps. In Y6 children will experience a trip to London. Again, pupils are provided with opportunities to utilise field work skills during the excursion. Furthermore, this first-hand experience will help children to compare life in the capital city with that in relatively small, northern town

Year group	School grounds	School locality	Wider locality	Wider UK
Reception	FS1- Classroom/area FS2- School grounds			Seaside
Year 1		Local walk		
Year 2		Local walk		
Year 3		Local walk		
Year 4		Local walk		Castleton
Year 5		Local walk	Sheffield	
Year 6		Local walk		London

Year group	Enquiry question	How findings are recorded/presented
Nursery	What is there in our classroom/playground?	Photographs of places in classroom Retrieving objects from classroom Discussing feelings/places using directional vocab (under/over/near/next to/beside)
Reception	What is there in our school? How do you feel at school?	Photographs of places in school Smiley/unhappy faces next to the pictures to show their feelings
Year 1	What can you buy in Wickersley?	Photographs of places they visit on their walk Draw the human features they saw on a map of their walk
Year 2	How do you travel to school?	Survey of how children travel to school using a tally chart Digimap showing distance between their house and school
Year 3	Does Wickersley need more bins?	Litter survey counting the different types of rubbish they find in Wickersley Bar chart showing the different types of litter
Year 4	What is there in Wickersley? How do you feel in Wickersley? (Compare this with Castleton)	Tally of building uses Photographs taken of the places they saw on route Annotate digital maps on return using- pictures, measurements, emotion markers
Year 5	Does Morthen road need a zebra crossing?	Traffic survey (tally) counting cars at different times of day (time sampling) Line graph showing how many cars pass at different points
Year 6	Where is Buckingham Palace in London?	Photographs taken of the places they saw on route to chosen landmark Annotate digital maps on return using- pictures, measurements, comments